ABBEVILLE — The works of nine African-American artists are being featured at the Abbeville Cultural & Historical Alliance Center in celebration of Black History Month.

Museum volunteer Jim Bourge, a sculptor, said this week he is intrigued by the works of the three sculptors whose pieces are on display.

“The incredible detail, the positive and negative imagery and the sheer humanity of these works are quite inspiring,” he said.

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Artists with work on display this month include:

- Clementine Hunter; Hunter, who died Jan. 1, 1988, at the age of 100, painted her first primitive-style work when she was 54. Over the years, many famous artists found their way to her cabin on Melrose Plantation near Natchitoches, in the Cane River country, to praise and buy her work. Many of her paintings portray field hands doing their work on cotton plantations, as well as other rural scenes.

- Dennis Paul Williams. Williams lives and works in St. Martinville. He is well-known for his surrealistic ink wash paintings of angels. His work has been described as “conversations with the reverential and the divine.” The artist himself says his intention is to “create works of art that make the viewer want to say, I'd better find out who I am.”

- Jamie Walker: Walker, a recent graduate of Abbeville High, works at McDonald’s here, where he can often be found doing pencil sketches and caricatures when he’s not on duty. Walker is known for the speed and realistic detail of his work. He takes commissions and hopes to work as a graphic artist someday.

- Donald Boudreaux. Boudreaux’s ink sketches are on loan from University of Louisiana at Lafayette professor Pat Rickels, who encouraged his work years ago but has lost contact with him. Boudreaux’s current whereabouts are unknown, but his work “mixes expressionism and realism in ways that are similar to jazz notes played on a saxophone, familiar, yet full of dramatic flavor,” exhibit curator Tony Mayard said.

- James Williams. An Abbeville native, he retouches and colorizes old photographs. Considered a leading practitioner of a vanishing art form, Williams does painstaking work that breathes new life into old images. His work has been displayed at the center a number of times and is a community favorite.

- William Tolliver: Known throughout the country and the world as a leading contemporary artist, Mississippi-born Tolliver has sculpture and paintings on display. Tolliver has a style that is “both versatile and refreshingly exuberant,” Mayard said. “What may seem commonplace on the surface finds brilliance and light at the hand of this unequivocal master.”

- Zemma Meacham. A longtime resident of Abbeville, Meacham now lives in San Francisco. It was she who suggested the exhibit now on display. Her style of painting is similar to Hunter’s, but “a little more eloquent in presentation,” Mayard said. She is working on a large painting of the Abbeville of her youth.

- Joel Foote. A Lafayette native, Foote’s sculptures are on loan from Rickels. The male bust portrays Orpheus, who in Greek mythology went to the underworld to bring wife Eurydice back from the dead, but lost her when he looked at her before reaching the upper world; and the female head, which is “extremely loaded with attitude,” Mayard said, was named for the first female dormitory at ULL, Bancroft.

- Frank Hayden. A renowned sculptor, the late Hayden was born in Memphis, Tenn., and educated at Xavier University in New Orleans. He taught at Southern University in Baton Rouge for 26 years. Many of his works are on public display in Baton Rouge. One of his last works, a sculpture of St. Martin de Porres, was presented to Pope John Paul II on the pontiff’s visit to New Orleans a number of years ago.

The alliance center is on South State Street in downtown Abbeville. For more information, Bourge or Mayard may be reached at 898-4114.